10. Concluding Remarks

MERVC guidelines are needed for energy-efficiency projects in order to accurately determine the net GHG, and other, benefits and costs, and to ensure that the global climate is protected and that country obligations are met. The MERVC guidelines may be used for transferring GHG reductions into credible, internationally acceptable GHG credits that could be traded at a high degree of confidence in commodity markets.

The strictness of MERVC guidelines needs to be carefully considered. Strict guidelines may easily lead to burdensome and complex procedures, thereby increasing the costs and reducing the cost-effectiveness of a project. If the guidelines for international verification are "loose", however, then project sponsors might be more able to manipulate the "measured" emission reductions, e.g., inflating the net emission reductions from the project. Because of concerns about high costs in responding to MERVC guidelines, the guidelines for energy-efficiency projects are designed to be not too burdensome.

The energy guidelines presented in this document are based on existing work that has been in use for several years (e.g., EPA's Conservation and Verification Protocols and DOE's International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol). In order to follow the guidance provided in this report, we have developed common reporting forms: project developers and evaluators will need to complete a monitoring and evaluation form (Appendix B) and verifiers will need to complete a verification form (Appendix C). As part of these forms, we have included Quality Assurance Guidelines that require analysts to indicate specifically how they addressed basic methodological issues.

The next phase of this work will be to develop a procedural handbook providing information on how one can complete the monitoring, evaluation and verification forms contained in this report. Next, we plan to test the usefulness of these guidelines in the real world. When necessary, these guidelines will be revised in order to correct for systematic errors in the guidelines.